

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 1 and 10 and cancel claims 2 and 11, without prejudice, as indicated on the following listing of all the claims in the present application after this Amendment:

1. (currently amended) In a video display system comprising a video display unit associated with a remote control device, a method for updating a remote control database in the remote control device comprising the steps of:

generating within the video display system a remote control database portion by decoding an incoming video signal, wherein the database portion is encoded in a video blanking interval of the video signal;

receiving from [[a]] the video display unit by a remote control device, a transmission signal comprising [[a]] the database portion for updating a first database provided in the remote control device; and

modifying according to the database portion a remote control protocol for the remote control device by replacing or augmenting the first database with a second database.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of: storing the database portion in a memory for the display unit.

4. (original) The method of Claim 3 wherein: a compression layer is stored in the memory.

5. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein: the remote control protocol is provided through the transmission signal, which comprises an infra-red (IR) or radio frequency (RF) signal that is received by the remote control unit.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein:

the remote control protocol is provided through the transmission signal, which comprises a wired signal that is received by the remote control unit according to a Universal Serial Bus (USB) or 1394 format.

7. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
operating the remote control device according to the modified remote control protocol.

8. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
providing a user request to initiate the remote control database update.

9. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of:
programmably providing a user interface button.

10. (currently amended) Apparatus for re-configuring remote control device
protocol comprising:

a digital television controller for processing a video signal to extract a database portion therefrom, the database portion being encoded in a video blanking interval of the video signal such that the controller extracts the database portion by decoding the video signal; and

an interface for providing to a remote control unit the database portion, wherein a remote control protocol of the remote control unit is modifiable according to the database portion.

11. (canceled)

12. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10 further comprising:
a digital repository for storing the database portion.

13. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein:
the interface comprises an infra-red (IR) emitter or radio frequency (RF) transmitter for communicating wirelessly to the remote control unit.

14. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein:

the interface comprises a communication circuit for communicating over a wired link to the remote control unit.

15. (original) Video signal processing method comprising the steps of:
in a media source, providing a television program signal; and
encoding in a video blanking interval (VBI) or sub-picture of the television program
signal a database portion to generate an embedded data signal, wherein the database portion
comprises one or more selected remote control protocols.

16. (original) The method of Claim 15 wherein:
the data signal is stored in a video tape or disk.

17. (original) The method of Claim 15 wherein:
the data signal is processed by a video player or appliance for display by a television unit.

18. (original) The method of Claim 15 further comprising the step of:
controlling a home entertainment component by a remote control unit which is
programmed according to a selected remote control protocol associated with the database
portion.